

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 85

April 13, 1999, 5:23 p.m.  
Page S-3628 Temp. Record

## BUDGET RESOLUTION/Instruction on Child Care Block Grant Funding

**SUBJECT:** Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 2000-2009 . . . H.Con. Res. 68. Dodd motion to instruct conferees.

### ACTION: MOTION AGREED TO, 66-33

**SYNOPSIS:** As passed, H.Con.Res. 68, the Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 2000-2009: will cut the debt held by the public (money that the Federal Government owes to creditors other than itself) in half over 10 years; will save the entire \$1.8 trillion in Social Security surpluses over the next 10 years for Social Security; will fully fund Medicare, with annual funding doubling over 10 years (all of the President's proposed \$9 billion in Medicare cuts were rejected; as a result, this budget will allow \$20.4 billion more in Medicare spending over the next 10 years than proposed by the President); will provide for \$765.9 billion in net tax relief over the next 10 years (in contrast, the President's budget would increase the tax burden by \$96 billion net over 10 years), and will adhere to the spending restraints (discretionary spending caps and pay-go provisions) of the bipartisan budget agreement as enacted in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Taxpayer Reform Act of 1997 (the President's proposed budget, in contrast, would dramatically increase spending in violation of that bipartisan agreement, and would result in \$2.2 trillion more in total Federal debt at the end of 10 years than proposed in this Senate budget). After tax relief is provided, the on-budget surplus over 10 years will still be \$101 billion; that money will be available for additional debt reduction or to pay for high priority items, such as the costs of a Medicare reform bill or the costs of emergency spending.

**The Dodd motion to instruct conferees** would direct conferees to retain in the conference report the Dodd/Jeffords amendment as it passed the Senate (see vote No.74). That amendment would reduce the proposed tax relief by \$5 billion over 5 years and by \$12 billion over 10 years and would increase the income security functional totals with the intention that the money would be spent as mandatory spending on the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program. In the statement of purpose on the amendment, a non-binding statement would also note that tax relief could be given to help "all working" families with employment-related child care expenses as well as families in which one parent stays home "to care for an infant."

(See other side)

YEAS (66)			NAYS (33)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans (22 or 40%)	Democrats (44 or 100%)		Republicans (33 or 60%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Akaka	Johnson	Allard	Inhofe		Moynihan- <sup>3AY</sup>
Campbell	Baucus	Kennedy	Ashcroft	Kyl		
Chafee	Bayh	Kerrey	Bennett	Lott		
Collins	Biden	Kerry	Bond	Mack		
Coverdell	Bingaman	Kohl	Brownback	McConnell		
DeWine	Boxer	Landrieu	Bunning	Murkowski		
Domenici	Breaux	Lautenberg	Burns	Nickles		
Fitzgerald	Bryan	Leahy	Cochran	Roth		
Frist	Byrd	Levin	Craig	Santorum		
Grassley	Cleland	Lieberman	Crapo	Sessions		
Hatch	Conrad	Lincoln	Enzi	Shelby		
Hutchinson	Daschle	Mikulski	Gorton	Smith, Bob		
Hutchison	Dodd	Murray	Gramm	Stevens		
Jeffords	Dorgan	Reed	Grams	Thomas		
Lugar	Durbin	Reid	Gregg	Thompson		
McCain	Edwards	Robb	Hagel	Thurmond		
Roberts	Feingold	Rockefeller	Helms			
Smith, Gordon	Feinstein	Sarbanes				
Snowe	Graham	Schumer				
Specter	Harkin	Torricelli				
Voinovich	Hollings	Wellstone				
Warner	Inouye	Wyden				

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

**Those favoring the motion contended:**

Child care is very expensive. Recently Senator Dodd spoke to a couple, both of whom are lawyers at the Justice Department, who have three children in a Justice Department day care center. They are paying \$26,000 per year, and they consider themselves lucky because there is a long waiting list to get into that center. These two problems--huge cost, and not enough places for children--are found all over the country. Parents need and deserve help. The average cost of child care is between \$4,000 and \$12,000 per year. Many parents simply cannot afford the cost. Twelve years ago, Senators Dodd and Hatch joined in creating a program that has been very effective in giving help, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program. It gives grants to States, which then give parents funding to pick the type of child care that they want. The only problem with this program is that it is underfunded. States have long waiting lists of parents who want to join the program. During consideration of the budget resolution, a Dodd/Jeffords amendment was adopted that would give \$5 billion more over 5 years to this program, and \$12 billion over 10 years. That amendment was adopted on a strong, bipartisan vote. Unfortunately, press reports indicate that conferees plan on discarding the amendment. Therefore, we have offered this motion to instruct conferees not to drop the amendment. We urge our colleagues to support this motion.

**While favoring the motion, some Senators expressed the following reservations:**

We will vote in favor of this motion, and those of us who are conferees will attempt to retain the Dodd/Jeffords amendment regardless of our opinion of it, but we are not optimistic that we are accomplishing anything with this vote. Senate conferees are not the only conferees who decide what goes into a report; House conferees have a say as well. Further, many House Members, and many Senators, have very serious reservations with the Dodd/Jeffords amendment. For instance, it would provide funding as mandatory rather than discretionary spending. As some Senators have noted, press reports have indicated that conferees intend to compromise on this matter by including language stating that part of the tax relief given should be to help parents with child care expenses. It is true that to get this benefit one would have to pay taxes, so many lower income people still may not be helped, but it is also true that lower income people are likely to get more than the additional sum suggested in this amendment due to the welfare reform bill. That bill has worked so spectacularly in moving people off welfare and into work that the States have huge amounts of unspent Federal welfare funds, and we have been told that many of the States plan on putting that extra money into the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program. This compromise is fair, and in the end we believe more assistance would end up being provided than proposed in the Dodd/Jeffords amendment. Again, though, if our colleagues insist, we are willing to argue the case again, even though many of us did not support the amendment in the first place, but we doubt very much that anything will change. With these reservations, we will support the motion.

**No arguments were expressed in opposition to the motion.**